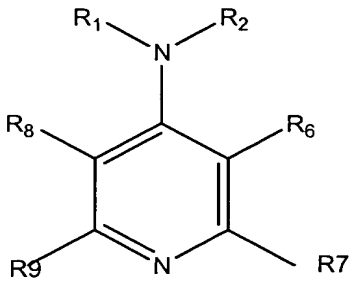
What is claimed is:

1. A compound according to formula (I):



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, or polymorph thereof, wherein R^1 is H or a C_1-C_4 alkyl group;

R^2 is a $-C(=O)-R^3$ group, a $-P(=O)(R^4)-R^5$ group or an OR group;

R^3 is H, a C_1-C_{20} alkyl group, an OR group, an alkylene ester group $-(CH_2)_nC(=O)-OR^{10}$, an amine group $-NR^{11}R^{12}$ or a $-(CH_2)_m=$ group where m is 1-3 and forms a ring with R^6, R is a C_1-C_{20} alkyl group, an aryl group or an alkylene aryl group, R^{10} is a C_1-C_{10} alkyl group, n is 1 to 20, R^{11} is selected from H, C_1-C_4 alkyl, aryl, alkylene aryl or an alkylene ester group as described above, and R^{12} is selected from H, C_1-C_4 alkyl, aryl, alkylene aryl or an alkylene ester group as described above or is a $-(CH_2)_z$-group where z is 0 to 2, such that R^{12} forms a ring with R^6, and wherein when one of R^{11} and R^{12} is other than H, the other of R^{11} or R^{12} is H; R^6 is H, C_1-C_4 alkyl, F, Cl, Br, I, NO_2 or a $NR^{13}R^{14}$ group where R^{13} is H or a C_1-C_3 alkyl group and R^{14} is a -(CH_2)m- group where m is 0 to 3 and forms a ring with the

$-C(=O)-R^3$ group when R3 is absent; and each of R7, R8 and R9 is independently selected from H, C_1-C_4 alkyl, F, Cl, Br, I or NO_2, preferably, at least two, and more preferably three of R^7, R^8 and R^9 are H.

2. A compound of claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, or polymorph thereof, selected from the group consisting of:

N - (4-Pyridyl) *t*-Butyl Carbamate;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Ethyl Carbamate;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Methyl Carbamate;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Isopropyl Carbamate;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Dodecyl Carbamate;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Benzyl Carbamate;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Benzamide;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Acetamide;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Propionamide;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Trimethylacetamide;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Ethyl Succinamate;
N, N'- (4-Pyridyl) Urea;
N, N'- (3,4-Pyridyl) Urea;
P, P-Diphenyl N- (4-Pyridyl) Phosphinamide; and
4-Pyridinyl Phosphoramidic acid, Diphenyl Ester.

3. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of injured mammalian nerve tissue, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an amount of a compound of claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, or polymorph thereof, effective in such treatment.

4. A pharmaceutical composition of claim 3, wherein the compound of claim 1 is selected from the group consisting of:

N - (4-Pyridyl) *t*-Butyl Carbamate;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Ethyl Carbamate;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Methyl Carbamate;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Isopropyl Carbamate;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Dodecyl Carbamate;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Benzyl Carbamate;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Benzamide;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Acetamide;

N - (4-Pyridyl) Propionamide;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Trimethylacetamide;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Ethyl Succinamate;
N, N'- (4-Pyridyl) Urea;
N, N'- (3,4-Pyridyl) Urea;
P, P-Diphenyl N- (4-Pyridyl) Phosphinamide; and
4-Pyridinyl Phosphoramidic acid, Diphenyl Ester;
and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates, and polymorphs thereof.

5. A method of treating a mammal suffering from injured mammalian nerve tissue, comprising administering to the mammal in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, or polymorph thereof

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the mammalian nerve tissue was injured as a result of trauma, disease, traumatically-induced compression, tumors, hemorrhage, infectious processes, spinal stenosis, or impaired blood supply.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein administration of a compound of claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvent, or polymorph thereof, restores action potential or nerve impulse conduction through a mammalian nerve tissue lesion.

8. The method of claims 5 wherein the injured mammalian nerve tissue is CNS or PNS tissue.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the injured mammalian nerve tissue is spinal cord tissue and the mammal is a human.

10. The method of claims 5 comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, or polymorph thereof, selected from the group consisting of:

N - (4-Pyridyl) *t*-Butyl Carbamate;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Ethyl Carbamate;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Methyl Carbamate;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Isopropyl Carbamate;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Dodecyl Carbamate;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Benzyl Carbamate;

N - (4-Pyridyl) Benzamide;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Acetamide;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Propionamide;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Trimethylacetamide;
N - (4-Pyridyl) Ethyl Succinamate;
N, N'- (4-Pyridyl) Urea;
N, N'- (3,4-Pyridyl) Urea;
P, P-Diphenyl N- (4-Pyridyl) Phosphinamide; and
4-Pyridinyl Phosphoramidic acid, Diphenyl Ester.

11. The method of claims 5 wherein the compound of claim 1, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, or polymorph thereof functions as a neurotrophic factor.

12. The method of claims 5 wherein the compound of claim 1, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, or polymorph thereof, is administered with another pharmaceutically active agent.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the other pharmaceutically active agent is a neurotrophic factor.

14. The method of claims 5 wherein the compound of claim 1, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, or polymorph thereof, is selected from the group consisting of N - (4 pyridyl) *t* - Butyl Carbamate; N - (4 Pyridyl) ethyl Carbamate; N - (4 Pyridyl) Methyl Carbamate; and N - (4-Pyridyl) Isopropyl Carbamate).